REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 are in the case, neither as yet allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnard et al. (U.S. PG PUB No. 2005/0097016).

Applicants traverse and argue that the Examiner has not made the required prima facie case of anticipation, which requires that the Examiner provides

1.   a single reference
2.   that teaches or enables
3.   each of the claimed elements (arranged as in the claim)
4.   expressly or inherently
5.   as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art.

With respect to the third element, it is not enough that the prior art reference disclose all the claimed elements in isolation. Rather, as stated by the Federal Circuit, the prior art reference must disclose each element of the claimed invention "arranged as in the claim." The Examiner, further, must identify the elements of the claims of the application, determine their meaning in light of the specification and prosecution history, and identify the corresponding elements disclosed in the allegedly

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anticipating reference. [See Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)]. Further, anticipation will not be found when the prior art is lacking or missing a specific feature or structure of the claimed invention. [See Continental Can Co. USA v. Monsanto Co., 20 USPQ 2d 1746, 1748 (Fed. Cir. 1991)].

The Examiner characterizes the teachings of Barnard in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, but does not appear to relate those teachings to the specific language of applicant's claims. For example, the phrase "receiving a user request from a first client browser to log in to said front-end server" is not a specific element in applicant's claims, nor is the included phrase "first client browser".

The Examiner states:

"Please note: Examiner did not feel compeled [sic] to rewrite/repeat the entire claims in the rejection since it would [be] redundant and time consuming to do so. It is respectfully request [sic, requested] from the applicant, in preparing the responses to fully consider the references [sic, reference] in its entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner." [Office action, page 3.]

Applicants traverse. The Examiner has not met his burden to establish a prima facie case of anticipation under

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35 U.S.C. 102, which requires that he "identify the elements of the claims of the application, determine their meaning in light of the specification and prosecution history, and identify the corresponding elements disclosed in the allegedly anticipating reference."

Set forth below is applicant's claim 1 (claim 12 is similar), marked to show various features or structures (certainly not all) which have not been identified by the Examiner as taught by the Barnard et al. reference, and which, in fact, are not.

1	1. A method for providing procurement services to a
2	plurality of customer companies with complex accounting
3	rules while providing secure information viewing in support
4	of said customer companies, said customer companies being
5	organized in a plurality of customer company groups and
6	procurement coalitions for volume discounts and access to
7	shared contracts with respect to a plurality of vendors,
8	with procurement contracts leveraged across company groups,
9	comprising the steps of:
10	providing a front end requisition and catalog server
11	for providing a user interface to a user at a customer
12	company browser to access catalogs and commodities
13	managed by said enterprise and for providing approval
14	notices and receiving approve/reject data with respect
15	to customer approvers;
16	inputs to said front end requisition and catalog
17	server from an enterprise procurement services

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18   system including requisition status, purchase

19   order status and contracts, cost centers, currency

20   exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase

21   order history invoices, purchase order history

22   receipts, and confirmations; outputs from said

23   requisition and catalog server to said procurement

24   services system including requisitions and

25   positive confirmation responses;

26   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

27   server from said customer company browser

28   including submit requisition; outputs from said

29   requisition and catalog server to said customer

30   company browser including approval/rejection

31   notices, status display, and negative and positive

32   confirmations; with notice and response data being

33   exchanged between said requisition and catalog

34   server and browser;

35   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

36   server from a vendor system including vendor

37   catalogs via an enterprise electronic data

38   interchange application;

39   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

40   server from an enterprise requisition and catalog

41   system including postal code validation data;

42   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

43   server including human resource extract data from

44   an enterprise hub server;

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45   providing said enterprise procurement services system
46   managed by said enterprise for accepting requisitions
47   from said front end requisition and catalog server
48   entered by said user and responsive thereto for causing
49   said electronic data interchange application to
50   generate transactions to said vendors <u>and for</u>
51   <u>generating accounting transactions to a leveraged</u>
52   <u>procurement network data warehouse facility for said</u>
53   <u>requisitions</u>;

54   <u>inputs to said enterprise procurement services</u>
55   <u>system from said front end requisition and catalog</u>
56   <u>server including requisitions and positive</u>
57   <u>confirmation responses</u>; and outputs to said front
58   end requisition and catalog server from said
59   enterprise procurement services system including
60   <u>requisition status data, purchase order status and</u>
61   <u>contracts data, cost center data, currency</u>
62   <u>exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase</u>
63   <u>order history invoices, purchase order history</u>
64   <u>receipts, and order confirmations;</u>

65   inputs to said enterprise procurement services
66   system from said enterprise hub server including
67   cost center data; and outputs to said hub server
68   from said enterprise procurement services system
69   including a company process control table, vendor
70   master updates, and accounting detail;

71   inputs to said enterprise procurement services
72   system from said electronic data interchange
73   application including purchase order

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74   acknowledgments, invoices, payment status and file
75   transfer check reconstructions; and outputs from
76   said enterprise procurement services system to
77   said electronic data interchange application
78   including purchase orders, invoice rejections and
79   payments;

80   inputs to said enterprise procurement services
81   system from operator terminals including process
82   purchase orders, requests for quotes, and
83   contracts data, create/change vendor master data,
84   invoice processing, payment proposal data, and
85   payment post and print;

86   inputs to said enterprise procurement services
87   system including currency exchange rate data from
88   an external financial services server; and output
89   from said enterprise procurement services system
90   to vendors including paper and fax purchase order
91   documents;

92   inputs to said enterprise electronic data
93   interchange application from said vendor including
94   purchase acknowledgments and invoices, and outputs
95   from said electronic data interchange application
96   to said vendor including purchase orders and
97   invoice rejections;

98   inputs to said enterprise electronic data
99   interchange application including payments from a
100   payment source and outputs from said enterprise
101   electronic data interchange application including

| 102 | payments to customer electronic data interchange |
| 103 | applications; |

104	providing said leveraged procurement network hosted
105	data warehouse facility for storing and monitoring said
106	electronic data interchange transactions and accounting
107	transactions;

108   providing said enterprise hub server for transferring
109   data between said front end requisition and catalog
110   server, said back-end purchasing system, and said data
111   warehouse facility;

112	inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub
113	server from said enterprise procurement services
114	system including company process control table,
115	vendor master updates and accounting detail;

116	outputs from said enterprise procurement services
117	hub server including human resource extract data,
118	extracted from customer employee data, to customer
119	requisition and catalog system;

120	outputs from said enterprise procurement services
121	hub server to a customer back-end purchasing
122	system including vendor master data, invoice
123	detail, payment detail and bank clearing detail
124	data;

| 125 | inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub |
| 126 | server further including cost centers data; |

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127   said customer back-end purchasing system also
128   receiving goods receipts from customer receiving;

129   establishing in a computer database a user profile for
130   associating acceptable accounting and system controls
131   to each person authorized by a customer company to
132   access said procurement services;

133   associating each said company with a company group of
134   related companies;

135   providing common code defining workflow components
136   common to all companies within said company group,
137   including accounting validation and approval
138   processing;

139   specifying in said user profile for each said user a
140   user company and company group so as to define said
141   controls based on company and company group by

142   collecting in said user profile each of a
143   plurality of users into a user profile table
144   associating acceptable accounting and system
145   controls for each person authorized by a customer
146   company to access procurement services for
147   leveraging access and maintaining isolation of
148   data by identifying a user at log on as associated
149   with a particular company group;

150   providing in a hub server a company group human
151   resources file connected through a fire wall to a
152   requisition and catalog server for creating and

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153   maintaining said user profile table;

154   said procurement services including process
155   requirements and data resources accessible only to
156   those users identified in their profiles as
157   members of a particular company and, therefore,
158   company group and including catalogs, contracts,
159   cost centers defining departments that can be
160   charged, a chart of accounts defining general
161   ledger account codes, entries in said user profile
162   table, business rules and defaults including those
163   affiliated with accounting and specifying fields
164   that must be completed in creating a requisition
165   and default data to be entered in those fields;

166   providing in each entry for a user in said user
167   profile a company group code, a company code, a
168   plant code specifying ship to location, an
169   employee serial number, and an E-mail address;

170   using said company group code and said
171   company code responsive to user login to
172   associate said user with a given company in a
173   company group for

174   responsive to user selection of a shop-
175   from-a-catalog button on a user browser,
176   controlling catalog application code to
177   display to said user only those catalogs
178   for which a corresponding catalog
179   profile includes said user's company in
180   a resource profile;

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<u>specifying departments that can be charged across companies in a company group;</u>

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selectively allowing a user to initiate requests for other users, view general ledger account codes associated with commodity codes by company group, company group specific business rules including accounting business rule defaults specifying fields required to be filled in by said user based on item being bought;

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said resource profile providing for each procurement resource to be shared among said users a resource profile in a computer database specifying for each resource those said companies to have access to and share said procurement resource; and

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responsive to said user profile and said resource profiles, controlling user access to said procurement resources.

Highlighting has been added to the above claim to point out only some of the distinctions in the claim with respect to the Barnard et al. reference.

Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and claims 1 and 12 allowed.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the case be passed to issue with claims 1 and 12.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

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